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INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF THE RED CROSS

DECEMBER 1972 - No. 141

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**FRENCH EDITION
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The French edition of this Review is issued every month under the title of *Revue Internationale de la Croix-Rouge*. It is, in principle, identical with the English edition and may be obtained under the same conditions.

**SUPPLEMENTS
TO THE REVIEW**

SPANISH

La situación de los detenidos políticos - Actividades del Servicio de socorros - Evolución de la Estación de radio del CIRC - El « Manual del soldado » - Índice, Vol. XXIV (1972).

GERMAN

K. Petrov und D. Venov : Das Rettungswesen in Bulgarien - Tätigkeit der Unterabteilung für Hilfsaktionen - Die Entwicklung der Funkstation des IKRK - Inhaltsverzeichnis, Band XXIII (1972).

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INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

Asian Sub-Continent

Repatriation of prisoners of war and civilians

A further repatriation operation between India and Pakistan was carried out from 7 to 10 November. An aircraft which the Swiss Confederation had made available to the ICRC made four flights between New Delhi and Rawalpindi and repatriated 352 persons. They included 145 wounded and sick Pakistani prisoners of war, 207 Pakistani civilian internees (women and children) and three wounded Indian prisoners of war.

With this operation, the number of prisoners of war repatriated to both sides amounts to 775.

A repatriation operation between Pakistan and Bangladesh took place from 14 to 16 November. The same plane enabled the ICRC, in the course of two flights from Dacca to Lahore and back, to repatriate seven Pakistani orphans and 160 Bangladesh pilgrims stranded in Pakistan since December 1971.

Prisoners of war in India

The ICRC delegates in the Asian sub-continent are steadily continuing their visits to prisoner-of-war camps in India and Pakistan. It will be recalled that the 90,000-odd Pakistani captives in Indian hands are scattered in some forty camps in the Ganges basin. The 623 Indian prisoners of war held by Pakistan are all in the Lyallpur camp.

At the end of October, the ICRC delegation in India was deeply concerned, and approached the New Delhi authorities, about further incidents which had occurred in four Pakistani prisoner-of-war camps, at Roorkee, Gwalior, Ranchi and Agra. Four

prisoners of war were killed and two wounded. In accordance with the established practice, the ICRC reports and the findings of enquiries made by the Indian military authorities are sent to the prisoners' own government.

Republic of Vietnam

ICRC delegates and doctors in the Republic of Vietnam visited several places of detention in November: between 7 and 9 November, they visited the Can-Thô prisoner-of-war camp, from 20 to 25 November the Phu-Quoc camp, and the Cong-Hoa general hospital on 15 and 16 November.

On the other hand, due to the restrictions which have been placed on their activities, they have not been able to visit national and provincial correctional institutions (prisons) since last March, and the ICRC has decided to abstain from any further approaches in this connection until the restrictions have been lifted.

Laos

In November 1972, the ICRC delegate in Laos, together with a member of the Lao Red Cross, went to Savannakhet and Keng Kok, in order to enquire into the condition of some 800 families (about 5,000 persons) who had had to leave their houses because of fighting. He also visited Houesai and Luang-Prabang, where there were about 9,000 refugees, to whom the ICRC provided some supplementary aid.

Middle East

In Israel, on 16 November 1972, ICRC delegates visited the 112 Arab prisoners of war held in the Sarafand military camp prison—61 Egyptians, 41 Syrians and 10 Lebanese. The day before, they visited five other Syrian prisoners of war.

In the Arab Republic of Egypt, the ten Israeli prisoners of war held in the Abassieh military prison were visited on 14 November 1972.

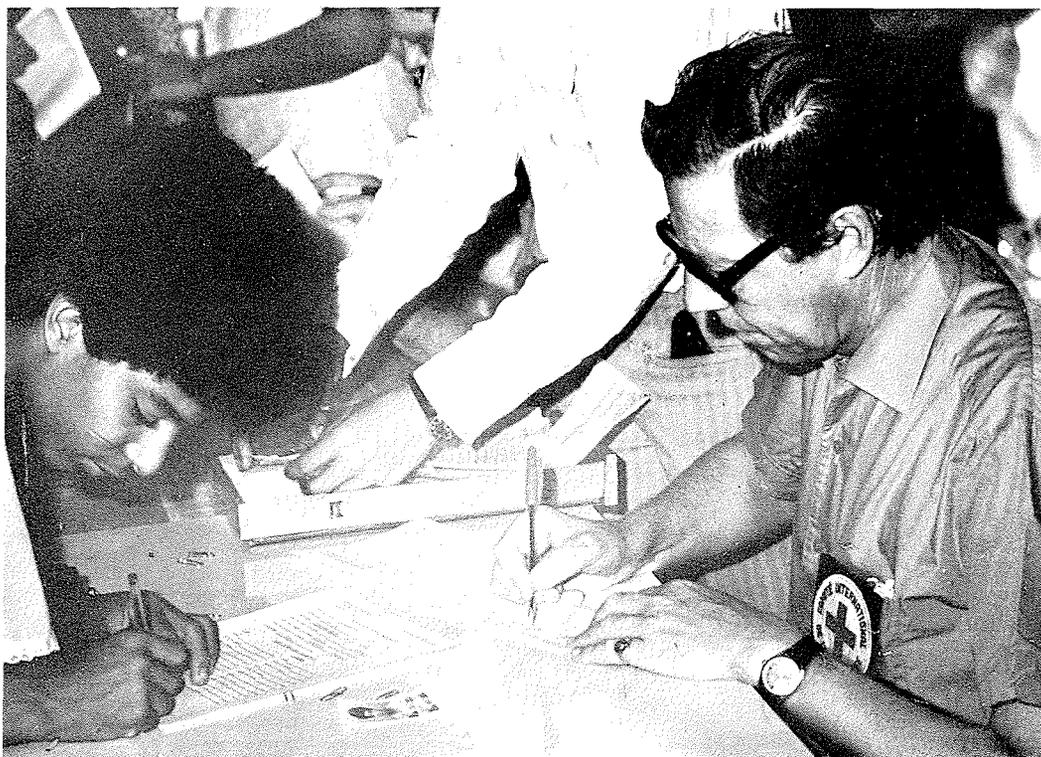
In Syria, the ICRC delegate visited the three Israeli prisoners of war on 16 November 1972.



Kampala, Asians of indeterminate nationality compelled to leave Uganda...

... applying for travel documents which the ICRC delegate issues.

Photos J. Bojilov ICRC





Khmer Republic: An ICRC delegate (*centre*) and members of the Khmer Red Cross distribute food to refugees in the Pochentong camp.

Ghana: The President of the National Red Cross, Mr. Ollenu (*left*) introducing Mr. Moreillon, ICRC Delegate-General, and Mr. Weber, Regional Delegate, to the Head of the State, Colonel Acheampong (*right*).



Yemen Arab Republic

Following the recent fighting between the armed forces of the Yemen Arab Republic and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, the ICRC offered its services to the two Governments concerned with a view to aiding the victims and visiting prisoners. In addition, the ICRC delegate in Sana'a was instructed to make an estimate of needs. He therefore proceeded to the Taiz area, in the southern part of the country.

Meanwhile, the ICRC despatched to the Yemen Arab Republic two relief consignments including plasma, anti-tetanus vaccine, surgical equipment and dressings. The ICRC delegate visited 22 prisoners from the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, to whom the Sana'a authorities had granted prisoner-of-war treatment in accordance with the Third Geneva Convention. He distributed relief supplies to the prisoners and handed out family message forms, to enable them to let their relatives in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen have news of them. During the second half of November, he visited four civilian nationals of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, who had recently been captured and were detained at Al Beida. The Sana'a authorities are treating them as prisoners of war.

People's Democratic Republic of Yemen

On 9 November 1972, the ICRC delegate in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen visited 28 prisoners of war and two civilians from the Yemen Arab Republic, who had been captured during the recent fighting.

Mission of ICRC Delegate-General in Latin America

Mr. S. Nessi, ICRC Delegate-General for Latin America, left Geneva on 17 October 1972 on a mission which was to last several weeks.

His first stop was Honduras, where he stayed until 24 October. He visited two places of detention, the "Centro de Rehabilitación Penitenciario" in Tegucigalpa, and the "Centro Penal" at San Pedro Sula.

He next proceeded to Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua.

In November, he went to Costa Rica and Panama. After having attended several meetings of the League of Red Cross Societies Training Institute in Colombia, Mr. Nessi left on 18 November for Ecuador.

In all the countries he visited, the Delegate-General was welcomed by Red Cross leaders. He familiarized himself with the Societies' activities and conferred with Government officials in each country on subjects such as the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions within the armed forces and among youth.

Chile

After a stay in Uruguay, the ICRC Regional Delegate for Latin America went to Chile, where he stayed from 10 to 26 October 1972.

In Santiago, he conferred with Government authorities, particularly in the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, the Interior and Health. He met Chilean Red Cross leaders, visited the Society's installations and learned of some of its activities, including the distribution of milk in schools. Lastly, he visited two places of detention, the "Penitenciaría de Santiago" and the "Casa Correccional de Mujeres", where he saw about a thousand detainees altogether.

Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador

Continuing their mission to Andean countries, the ICRC delegate and doctor stayed in Bolivia from 10 to 23 October 1972. They held talks with Government authorities, including the Minister of the Interior and the "Jefe de Inteligencia", and with Bolivian Red Cross leaders, and then, from 14 to 20 October, visited six places of detention in La Paz and in the provinces. In each place, they handed over medicaments for the detainees. In addition, relief supplies were distributed in five prisons.

They next went to Peru and Ecuador. In Peru, they visited four, and in Ecuador five, places of detention. In both Lima and Quito, they conferred with Government officials and National Red Cross Society leaders.

Uganda

The operation which the United Nations organized at Kampala to help Asians of undetermined nationality to leave Uganda, on which a report was given in the November issue of *International Review*, was concluded on 10 November 1972.¹ During this operation, which lasted from 25 October to 9 November, the ICRC issued 2,950 "ICRC Travel Documents" to 4,200 persons and thereby enabled them to leave before the deadline fixed by the Ugandan authorities. The ICRC also took part in setting up and organizing United Nations departure centres, which housed some 600 Asians for three days before their departure. In Kampala, in co-operation with the delegate of the League of Red Cross Societies, the ICRC delegates devoted themselves in particular to the task of providing assistance to the handicapped, to those in hospital and to detainees, and of facilitating departure formalities.

An ICRC office will remain open in Kampala to issue the requisite travel documents for Asians who may still be in Uganda.

Gambia and Sierra Leone

The ICRC Regional Delegate for West Africa recently stayed in *Gambia*. He contacted Government authorities and Red Cross leaders and saw some 120 detainees in Bathurst central prison. The ICRC despatched medicaments for distribution in that prison by the Gambian Red Cross Society.

The Regional Delegate then proceeded to *Sierra Leone*, where he met Government officials and leaders of the National Society.

Rwanda

The ICRC Regional Delegate for East Africa carried out a mission to Rwanda where, after talks with Government representatives, he met Red Cross leaders. He also visited eleven places of detention. At the end of October, the ICRC sent the Rwanda Red Cross surgical material for the Rilima repatriation camp.

¹ *Plate.*

The Fate of Political Detainees

The third issue of Aspects, which has just come out, contains an article by Mrs. Danièle Bujard, legal expert at the ICRC, on the subject of political detainees. Readers of International Review, we believe, will most probably find it of considerable interest, in view of its topical content, at a time when internal tension appears to be on the increase in various parts of the world while the legal basis for ICRC intervention is contained within very narrow limits.

Throughout the world hundreds of thousands of men are deprived of freedom for having professed political or religious opinions opposing those of their country's leaders, or for having manifested their discontent with social conditions.

The overthrow of a legal government by the army may not always be accompanied by bloodshed; however, large-scale arrests of the former government's supporters will inevitably occur, with a concomitant situation of internal tension.

Should part of the population rise up spontaneously against living conditions to which it is subjected, the legal government will unleash special anti-riot police, and sometimes even the army, against any such groups which may be organized or totally unorganized and weakly armed. There will be casualties and many persons arrested: the situation is one of internal disorder.

It may occur also that minority groups endeavour to seize power by creating disorder, resorting to terrorism and destruction.

"Political prisoners" is a term which most frequently connotes persons arrested under the conditions just described. It is true that governments are able to deploy forces of repression of such strength that any rebellion has become almost hopeless unless part of the police or armed forces defects to the insurgents.

And yet, over the last twenty years, many local non-international conflicts have been waged in all quarters of the globe. International conflicts, although less numerous, have not been wanting from the scene of violence, and it must not be forgotten that in conflicts of all types, from international war to internal disturbances, the political detainee has become a regular feature.

*

Legal protection for political prisoners, whatever the reasons for their arrest, is practically non-existent. The 1949 Geneva Conventions for the protection of war victims do not apply to the nationals of a State in the event of international armed conflict. Article 3, common to those Conventions and applicable to non-international armed conflict, gives some basic protection to the victims of such conflicts, forbidding, *inter alia*, torture and ill-treatment and rough justice; it does not, however, prescribe any particular treatment of persons deprived of their freedom or any supervision of such treatment.

No doubt some hope may be pinned to the international treaties on Human Rights, some provisions of which must be applied in all circumstances, even in the event of exceptional public emergency. However, although some regional conventions on Human Rights have entered into force, the international treaties have not yet been ratified by a sufficient number of States. One way of alleviating the plight of political detainees would be to improve conditions for all detainees throughout the world, perhaps by application of the "Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Detainees" drawn up by the United Nations and which, it is held in some quarters, should be applied to all persons deprived of freedom, whether for criminal offences or for their opinions. For the time being, however, the nearest approach to the international recognition of these Minimum Rules is a 1957 recommendation by the U.N. Economic and Social Council. They therefore do not have the force of law.

How, then, can the plight of these innumerable persons be alleviated, of these persons of whom so many are arrested secretly and detained without proper trial, subjected to physical and mental

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

ill-treatment and, worst of all, forgotten for years even when the government against which they revolted has been replaced or when ideology has changed?

Many international organizations are trying to have their conditions improved. The Red Cross, in particular, has long been concerned for the problem and has endeavoured to provide relief and improve detention conditions for political prisoners. Since the beginning of the century, in the context of non-international armed conflict and of internal disturbances, the International Committee of the Red Cross has been active in this field. It has been encouraged so to do by International Conferences of the Red Cross which have adopted many resolutions recognizing that all victims of civil war or internal disturbances should be helped in accordance with Red Cross principles. Moreover, the ICRC has been able to act on the basis of its Statutes which stipulate that its role is, *inter alia*, "to take action in its capacity as a neutral institution, especially in case of civil war or internal strife".

Over the last two decades, it has endeavoured to extend its scope to certain situations of internal tension. Without any legal basis, the ICRC's action is dependent on its power of persuasion; it relies entirely on the good will of governments which authorize it to visit detention centres. From 1958 to 1969, in the course of its work during internal disturbances and tension, the ICRC visited over 100,000 persons detained as a result of situations not really covered by the 1949 Geneva Conventions. Consequently, in practice, and invoking its generally recognized right to take humanitarian action on its own initiative, it has achieved very encouraging results. It is first and foremost the treatment of detainees for which the ICRC is concerned. The purpose of its visits is to ensure that detention conditions are humane, and to arrange, in case of need, for improvements. In addition, the ICRC provides material comforts and, as far as it can, assists the families in distress as a result of the arrest of one of their members. Traditionally discreet, the International Committee does not publicize its work, and reports on detention centres solely to the government of the detaining Power, whose confidence it must retain, for the benefit of the detainees.

But the ICRC does not overlook the fact that political detainees have no legal protection to ensure that they receive humane treatment at all times and in all circumstances. In addition to its practical work, it examines ways and means of improving relevant international law. However, let us foster no illusions; progress will be slow, for the political detainee question impinges upon the sovereignty of States which jealously guard their prerogatives and watch over their security.

The ICRC must therefore unremittingly continue its work in the field and, from case to case, offer its services on the basis of its impartiality and neutrality, appealing to the political and moral responsibility of governments. It must continue, without respite and without being discouraged, its work in the field in order to broaden its sphere of action and to establish a practice which we hope it will be easier to sanction in an international legal instrument.

DISSEMINATION OF THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS

Resolution No. 2, voted by the Council of Delegates in Mexico City in October 1971, urged National Societies to report to the ICRC their plans and results in the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions. The Conference of Red Cross Experts, meeting in Vienna last March, expressed a recommendation to the same effect. We are introducing a new heading under which we shall be happy to publish any information the ICRC may receive on this subject.

* * *

GERMANY DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

The German Red Cross in the German Democratic Republic has made a notable effort to disseminate the Geneva Conventions in that country. It has published a series of booklets on the Conventions and their practical implementation. One of these, of which 50,000 copies were printed in 1971, was the second edition of a booklet published in 1967, with some slight changes and without the illustrations which had appeared in the first edition. The present booklet is therefore clearer and of a more convenient format.

The National Society had already published several editions of a brochure on the Geneva Conventions which contained a brief outline based on the " Summary for Members of the Armed Forces and the General Public ", issued by the ICRC in 1951. The German Red Cross published more than 250,000 copies of the booklets on the Geneva Conventions, in 1967 and 1971 as well as in earlier years. Further, in 1971 this National Society published two edi-

tions of the text of the First and Fourth Geneva Conventions, one in the form of a brochure and the second for a loose-leaf compendium. Members of the Red Cross and all those who, because they have read the explanatory booklets or followed a course of study on the Geneva Conventions, wish to acquaint themselves more thoroughly with any of the provisions of the Conventions, are thus able to consult the text of those Conventions.

We may also mention the many articles on the Geneva Conventions which have appeared in Red Cross publications in the German Democratic Republic, and the brochures designed to make the Geneva Conventions better known and available to the professional groups concerned. Early in 1972, a further booklet appeared containing a study entitled "The Doctor and the Four Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 on the Protection of War Victims"; it is specially meant for doctors and other medical and auxiliary personnel.

The booklets published in 1971 and in earlier years have been sent by the Governing Body to district branches and local committees, and thence distributed to the 12,000 basic organizations. They are handed to members of the Red Cross and to others. As a rule, they are distributed at meetings held to ensure a closer study of the problems involved. The Geneva Conventions are explained by teachers or other persons conversant with the subject. The study is continued with what are known as seminar guidelines, issued by the Governing Board of the Red Cross to basic organizations and which provide for an analysis of the Geneva Conventions for several hours. The first part covers the origin and development of the Red Cross and the Geneva Conventions while the second part is assigned to an analysis of the principles and the essential provisions of the Geneva Conventions. The principles of the Red Cross are also studied.

In this study, it is of course made clear beyond doubt that the Red Cross rejects war as a political means, and that neither the principles nor the provisions of the Geneva Conventions imply any moral justification of warfare. The teaching is designed to serve the cause of peace and strengthen the conviction that mankind can finally triumph and reach complete fulfilment only in a world that knows no war. To prevent war, therefore, is the primary aim.

CANADA

The Canadian Red Cross had devoted some time ago a special number of its official publication¹ to the Geneva Conventions and to their meaning from both moral and practical aspects. The whole issue provided an admirable synthesis and a clear exposition of the questions involved, and enabled the general public to understand the significance of the Conventions and to realize how much it is necessary to give wide publicity to their principal rules. As an illustration, we shall therefore print here a number of passages from that publication. The following extract is what Despatch published on "The Place of the Geneva Conventions in the Law of Nations".

This brief survey of the Geneva Conventions and the essential role of the Red Cross movement in formulating them explains their privileged position in the law of nations.

The Roman *jus gentium*, from which the expression "droit des gens" derives, was defined by the Institutes of Justinian as the series of rules which natural reason has established *among men*: "quod naturalis ratio *inter homines* constituit". Under the ancient Roman conception, Roman law only applied to Roman citizens; slaves and non-Romans had no law. But the evolution of ideas and the expansion of the Roman Empire to the confines of the known world had broadened this original concept. Laws applicable to those who did not come under Roman law had been admitted by virtue of the sole fact that they were human beings. These ideas were to be adopted by theologians, who, in the name of Divine Justice, forcefully proclaimed the dignity of man. However, as modern States were formed, and papal authority weakened, quite a different conception of the law of nations was to evolve. From the end of the XVIth Century, Vitoria referred to a "jus inter gentes" to designate the law of nations, thus substituting the idea of political groups for that of individuals as subjects of international law.

Contrary to the canonists of the Middle Ages, the jurists who elaborated modern law no longer sought to link the idea of law

¹ *Despatch*, Canadian Red Cross, Toronto.

with Divine Justice. No doubt they still thought that it should be based on "natural law", a series of moral ideas conforming to the precepts of the Christian religion, but according to Suarez, the law of nations is distinct from natural law in that it is solely "positive human law". From that time onwards international law proceeded from the nations, which established it in their complete sovereignty; it resulted from the customs to which States conformed and conventions concluded between them.

In these circumstances the respect for the rights of the *individual* was simply a matter of the internal legislation of each State. It was considered that a sort of "social contract" bound individuals to their particular collectivity and that they had once and for all, so to speak, left the State to regulate the exercise of their rights. The principles of natural law were still honoured as the basis of legislation, and essential rights of persons continued to be promulgated by international legislation; but the *exercise* of these rights depended on the public authorities.

Internal public order can undoubtedly only be maintained on this condition, but in time of war, when the individual no longer comes under the natural protection of the State of which he is a citizen, how is the respect of fundamental human rights to be guaranteed? Only international law could protect these rights by suitable conventions between States, on condition the latter agree to restrict violence and safeguard certain human values in the very midst of conflict.

The Geneva Conventions provide for time of war, but it sometimes happens that, apart from cases of international conflict, there are internal disturbances during which the government and the people of a nation find themselves opposed. At such times individuals are exposed to the same dangers as enemies in time of war and if their position is considered from the strictly personal and human point of view, without regard to politics, their case calls for similar guarantees. Humanitarian logic is so strong that the analogy of situations has won legal protection for individual victims of civil wars and internal disturbances, i.e. a particular State's own nationals, which, while not being so comprehensive as that enjoyed by non-nationals, nevertheless preserves a minimum of humane treatment.

It is here that we touch upon the great problem of the place of the individual in international law. Some people, who favour the development of the law of nations, are now of the opinion that States are not the sole subjects of international law, but that the individual should also have his place therein for the respect of his fundamental rights. He should, moreover, be entitled to claim these rights if necessary, even outside the State of which he is a national. The approval of this step forward in international law would accord the right to individuals, non-governmental groups or organizations to resort to the procedure of availing themselves of their personal rights before an International Court of Human Rights. This question has been laid before the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, which has questioned Governments on it. The reply given by the Netherlands Government, among others, " admits that if it is desired to give complete protection on the international level to the rights and freedom of man, this right will finally have to be recognized; but before doing so, it should be waived until experience has shown the limits within which international protection of the rights and freedom of the individual is operative ".

For the time being, Geneva Law constitutes a universally accepted guarantee on many points, and especially as regards the safeguard of fundamental human rights in time of war or internal disturbances, that is to say when they are most threatened. The rights of the individual are matched by a duty of the States, in the name of humanitarian principles. This duty they have freely chosen to accept in accordance with the rules laid down in the international conventions.

Some have concluded from this that Geneva Law constitutes special law, " supra-international " law. This is what Mr. A. Pastor Ridruejo declares in a remarkable essay. His reasoning is that this law can be defined neither as internal law nor as international law in the ordinary sense of the terms, for three main reasons: because it is binding on persons who are not necessarily members of the international community (as, for example, rebels not recognized as belligerents, in an armed conflict of a non-international character), because it establishes rights in favour of persons (" protected persons ") and, finally, because it lays obligations on States in

regard to their own nationals. All these remarks are accurate, but it can equally be admitted that Geneva Law is a new type of international law under which States, for humanitarian reasons, have accepted to bind themselves, in certain circumstances, vis-à-vis their own nationals. The obligation contracted by the Powers which are mutually bound by the Geneva Conventions *to respect and ensure respect* of the said Conventions *in all circumstances* shows that these texts are not to be interpreted in a limited manner but are to be broadly applied in letter and spirit. That is why Geneva Law is, in a certain manner, of a privileged nature in the law of nations. This law has an affective element which has a decisive influence on usual inter-State relations. It authorizes and even recommends personal contacts from man to man, independent of any political allegiance.

*

Conclusion. — It can be concluded from the above that Geneva Law broadens the conception of inter-State law in accordance with the precepts of charity. This is why the Red Cross, which for more than a century has done so much to shape and proclaim this Law, has taken as its maxim “*Inter arma caritas*”.

The numerous references in Geneva Law to Red Cross bodies and in particular to the International Committee of the Red Cross, show the important part assigned to the Red Cross in international affairs.

In this connection, it is to be noted that the International Red Cross is practically the only organization which was not incorporated in the United Nations during the extensive reorganization of international institutions. At a time when most of the existing international organizations were being replaced by the United Nations' services or by specialized agencies, the International Red Cross remained as it stood. It possessed wide authority and retained its independence, together with the character of a private body which sprang from its origin and traditions. This was indeed a tribute to the qualities of the movement. In addition, it was requested to continue and expand its humanitarian work.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights of December 10, 1948 is one of the most important instruments of the United

Nations. But the text itself, however excellent, has not any executive value, and merely asks for the conclusion of suitable international conventions to implement it. These are still being studied and, in view of the political difficulties that have been raised, particularly as regards the Article concerning the right of peoples to self-determination, years may elapse before they are ratified.

In the meantime, an organization such as the Red Cross continues to be the best qualified to intervene, on behalf of victims of events, in the name of human dignity and in accordance with Red Cross principles. It is fit and proper that, irrespective of politics and inter-State relations, some international institution of a private character should retain the moral prestige and the material resources to carry humanitarian decisions in the most delicate circumstances.

These prerogatives, which extend to Red Cross action in war just as in peace, and especially during the present troubled times, where "cold war" and ideological propaganda constantly threaten to stir up conflict between nations, is based on what are known as the principles of the Geneva Conventions, which are bound up with the principles of the Red Cross.

* * *

ITALY

At the International Red Cross Museum in Castiglione, an exhibition of documents and pictures on the Geneva Conventions, organized by the International Committee of the Red Cross, remained open from June to September of this year. About 4300 persons visited the exhibition; they had the opportunity to examine documents relating the progress of humanitarian law and to view colour slides of the school textbook "The Red Cross and My Country" and the "Soldier's Manual". The aim of the textbook is to propagate the fundamental principles of the Red Cross, while that of the "Soldier's Manual" is to disseminate as much as possible, among members of the armed forces, knowledge of the basic provisions of the Geneva Conventions.

HEALTH IN THE 1980's

How will health and medical practice have developed by the end of the 1980's? This question was examined by a score of participants in the meeting organized jointly by the Henry Dunant Institute and Messrs Sandoz S.A. and held in Basle from 13 to 15 September 1972.

The meeting was, in fact, the final phase of an enquiry, among some sixty eminent persons in eighteen countries, on *Health and Medical Practice in the 1980's*, with a view to educing a number of results which were descried during the enquiry itself and which were mentioned in the August issue of *International Review*.

During the three working days, the participants endeavoured to define what would be the health problems arising in the advanced countries and what would be the likely solutions. They also tried to forecast what workers and means would be required to meet needs, with special reference to the so-called " civilization " diseases (cancerous, cardiac, mental). The functions of the para-medical professions (nurses, medical assistants, etc.) and the work of public institutions were central to the proceedings, as were also questions of public information and hygiene education.

This was the first full enquiry of this kind on an international scale. The results will shortly be published, but in the meantime we would underline here the considerable interest of such a meeting to the Red Cross which, in fact, has been working for over a century to improve health and prevent disease. The Red Cross activities in this field are manifold (especially in relation to medical personnel and hospitals) and it is well qualified to educate the public in matters of health. In addition, such meetings, by systematically capitalizing on information of the greatest interest, should permit the Red Cross to predict its role in the world of tomorrow and to prepare accordingly in good time.

IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

As Mr. Jean Pictet, Vice-President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, stated during the closing session:

...By proposing, in 1864, the conclusion of the first Geneva Convention, the International Committee of the Red Cross obtained protection for military doctors even on the battlefield, and even when wearing military uniform, by reason of their healing mission. And it was thus that the red cross on a white background, instituted by the movement's founders, became the emblem of the medical service's immunity from attack, as well as our institution's flag.

A type of co-operation which has been not only ceaseless but considerably developed dates from that time; the Red Cross soon outgrew its narrow limits, wishing no longer to restrict its concern to war victims but to extend it to nature's victims, the sick, the disabled, the weak.

So the Red Cross became inseparably associated with medicine, the noblest of all professions. The Red Cross and medicine have a common aim: to struggle against suffering and death. They also have a common ethic, for your deontology coincides with our principles, and a common capital precept of non-discrimination which does not date back to Hippocrates but is a great conquest of modern times and which, as J.- G. Lossier wrote, has enabled the two worlds of master and servant to come together to form a single humanity.

Today, the doctor's mission, like that of the Red Cross worker, is increasingly difficult, for our times are convulsed by phenomena such as the demographic explosion, the technological revolution, the clash of profoundly differing ideologies and the world-shaking emergence of new forces. The result is a hardening of hearts, a laxity in morals and a terrible resurgence of violence. Suffering itself has become a political weapon, an abundant source of propaganda, to such an extent indeed that the Red Cross is sometimes taken to task for putting a stop to it! All too often powerless, we witness aghast this rising tide of neo-barbarity.

It must therefore be realized that the giving of succour requires more and more courage. To be true to one's duty today, in an increasingly fanatical and implacable world, may involve risking one's life. The doctor has to be prepared to face the risk. His mission requires also a profound inner preparation. Henceforth, confronted with new and

unsuspected phenomena, he must, to survive and to adapt, acquire new personal qualities and assert new ethical standards. And it is in that context that your work is significant. . .

To bring the action of the Red Cross up to date and assess its possibilities for development in tomorrow's world, such were the reasons which induced the League of Red Cross Societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross to assign to the Henry Dunant Institute the investigation of which the meeting in Basle was the final phase. That, however, was only the first stage. Other meetings will follow which, it is hoped, will make it possible to define both the possibilities and the limits of humanitarian action in a rapidly changing world.

RED CROSS INFORMATION MEETING

In response to a joint invitation from the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies, some twenty experts from different National Red Cross Societies met in Geneva, on 3 November 1972, to hear reports on current Red Cross programmes in Indochina and on those being prepared.

The Red Cross experts considered the various possibilities for increased humanitarian action following a cease-fire in that part of the world, with the agreement of the local authorities and of the Red Cross bodies directly responsible. Pending such a cease-fire, the Red Cross regards it as imperative to reinforce its current programmes so that it may be able to fulfil its traditional tasks on a larger scale.

**MEETING OF SEVERAL NATIONAL SOCIETIES
AND THE ICRC**

On 17 and 18 October, a meeting was held in Copenhagen to discuss ways and means for National Societies to increase public interest in the Red Cross ideal and National Society co-operation with the ICRC. The meeting was attended by leaders of the National Societies of Denmark, Finland, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden, while the ICRC was represented by Mr. Freymond, member of the Committee, Mr. Le Fort, Secretary-General, and Mr. Modoux, head of the Press and Information Division.

The discussions were concerned particularly with public interest in humanitarian operations and the scope for National Societies to stimulate such interest. Experience over the last few years, particularly during large-scale relief operations, has been that the public expects the Red Cross to provide war victims not only with material relief but with protection consistent with its real vocation. Assistance and protection are intimately linked; it is in this dual function with which it is identified that the Red Cross differs from other charitable organizations.

Participants in the meeting felt that the ICRC was able to help National Societies to maintain the necessary cohesion between humanitarian principles and action. They asked the ICRC to co-ordinate efforts to that end and to draw up a programme for permanent contact with National Societies for that purpose.

**A SLOVAK TRANSLATION OF
“ A MEMORY OF SOLFERINO ”**

At the recent meeting of the Executive Committee of the League of Red Cross Societies, Dr. A. Horak, Vice-President of the Czechoslovak Red Cross, presented a Slovak version of Henry Dunant's book "A Memory of Solferino". An addendum by Dr. Horak explains the link between the present mission of the Red Cross and the original aims set forth by Dunant when he wrote the book which had such a resounding success.

With this first Slovak version, there are now, so far as we know, forty-seven editions of Dunant's book, in eighteen languages.

THE EMPRESS SHOKEN FUND

The Fund which the Empress Shôken decided to set up in 1912, designed to promote Red Cross relief work at international level, has in the past often enjoyed the generosity of the Japanese Government. To mark the visit of the Emperor and Empress of Japan to the ICRC in October 1971, the Japanese Government announced that it would increase its contribution to the Fund under a further five-year programme.¹ Recently, it again showed its interest in the Fund by making an extraordinary grant of 125,000 Swiss francs for 1972.

The people of Japan, too, take interest in the Shôken Fund and the assistance which its income enables to be furnished; a private benefactor, Mr. Otaki, lately donated to it 150,000 Swiss francs. On 25 September last, at the ICRC in Geneva, the Chairman of the Joint Commission of the Shôken Fund and representatives of the League of Red Cross Societies and the ICRC presented to

¹ See *International Review*, October 1963 and November 1971.

the Ambassador of Japan and a delegation of the Japanese Red Cross a certificate of thanks to be remitted to the donor. Almost at that same time, some members of the Japanese Red Cross who were in a party visiting the ICRC collected among themselves, a sum of over one thousand Swiss francs which was donated to the Fund.

Spain

International First Aid Congress

From 26 October to 1 November 1972, the first International Congress on first aid and the transport of accident victims, organized by the Spanish Red Cross, was held in Barcelona. During the official inauguration, when Count de Toreno, President of the Supreme Assembly of the National Society, had welcomed the participants, an official ceremony took place to mark the centenary of the Barcelona section of the Spanish Red Cross. "If Henry Dunant were alive today, his concern for the distress in the world would be greater than it was for that on the battlefield at Solferino", said the President of the Barcelona section, Mr. J. L. de Salas Cardenal, who outlined in his address the main events in the history of the Red Cross.

In addition to representatives of the authorities, the Congress was attended by ICRC delegate Mr. Raymond Courvoisier, League delegate Mr. Vladimir I. Semoukha, and delegations from several National Societies from Latin America, Europe and the Middle East, as well as from the Red Cross sections in the provinces of Spain, the Canary Islands and the Balearic Islands. Mr. Courvoisier, who was presented with the Spanish Red Cross gold medal, conveyed the congratulations and good wishes of the ICRC and he described the most important present-day tasks of that institution.

The main themes of the working sessions and round-table meetings were: first aid on the highway, in the mountains and at

sea—emergency services in hospitals—safe driving—air rescue—the transport of casualties—first aid in industry and at work—accidents in the home—the ethics of organ transplants—the peaceful use of atomic energy and its medical aspect.

These discussions gave participants opportunities to give accounts of certain specially interesting activities undertaken by their National Societies, showing that humanitarian initiative not only gives immediate and effective assistance but also demonstrates that the Red Cross is ready to intervene everywhere for those who suffer. Such activities which might be mentioned, to quote only a few, were described in addresses by Dr. H. Jeschonnek, on mountain rescue; by Dr. J. F. Apolinario, on first aid, solidarity and peace; by Dr. G. Rosen, on aviation in land and sea rescue service; by Dr. A. C. Santos, on road accidents and their prevention; by Dr. A. Villalon, on first-aiders and accidents at work.

Guatemala

Mr. Amado Padilla, Executive Secretary of the Guatemalan Red Cross, in a statement which we take pleasure in summarizing below, describes the many useful activities carried out by that Society.

A 24-hour medico-surgical clinic is run at Red Cross headquarters. In an emergency, patients can be visited by a doctor. A permanent medical service sets up first-aid posts on the occasion of some public event, and they keep in touch with one another and with headquarters by means of radiotelephony.

The Red Cross has auxiliary teams, field hospitals, food supplies, medicaments and clothing. It appeals to first aiders and to women volunteers in case of disasters such as fire, floods, epidemics or earthquakes. It is prepared for any situation where a disaster may occur or events lead to some internal disturbance in any part of the country. Its branch delegations and sub-delegations render

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numerous services in the medico-social sphere. They have medical clinics, dispensaries and ambulance services (there are 45 ambulances for the country as a whole and 21 for the capital). In Guatemala City, each service is run by a doctor, and in answer to an appeal it provides immediate first aid for the sick or injured and conveys them to a hospital, clinic or nursing home. A special service is responsible for transferring patients who arrive by plane, rail or bus to one of those institutions or for taking them home.

To ensure that the international humanitarian rules are applied, the Guatemalan Red Cross has free access to places of detention and prisons. It visits them and does its utmost to see that the provisions relating to prisoners or persons detained for political reasons are respected. It provides fully equipped portable dispensaries for those school centres which have a Red Cross section and, where circumstances allow it to do so, donates special appliances to national hospitals and blood plasma to welfare institutions.

The Committee of Women Volunteers frequently supplies clothing for children in hospital and helps disaster victims regardless of their nationality. It provides food and medicaments for private or official centres which may be in need of them. The emergency medical service can thus count on the co-operation of qualified first aiders and women Red Cross volunteers in the delicate and arduous duties of the auxiliary nurse.

The Red Cross spreads knowledge about the general concepts of hygiene among the population, and it distributes posters and pamphlets on life and health protection. With the voluntary aid of members of the medical profession, it has set up schools for the training of first aiders, women Red Cross auxiliaries and home-care nurses. It holds periodic courses on relief work, first aid and home care, for groups of volunteers who receive a diploma on successfully passing their final examination. It ceaselessly opens new Red Cross Youth sections in State schools and private schools.

It may be added that the National Society recently founded a blood bank service. Under the direction of experts, this service is to carry out its activities at national level as soon as its resources allow it to do so.

M I S C E L L A N E O U S

ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS

In its issue of August 1972, International Review published an account of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, held last June at Stockholm, and pointed out at the time the significance of this conference, at which Mr. H. Beer, Secretary General of the League of Red Cross Societies, underlined, in his address, the part that the Red Cross movement plays and will increasingly play in the struggle for the protection of the human environment that is today menaced with ruin.

At another more recent meeting, at Geneva, Mr. M. F. Strong, Secretary General of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, addressing a session of the League's Executive Committee, complimented the Red Cross for assuming in this field a leading role, nationally and internationally, for which, he said, the Red Cross was particularly well qualified, "based on its long experience in dealing with environmental health, urban development, population, war, poverty, education, youth and natural disasters". After expressing his very deep appreciation for Red Cross help in solving those problems with which the newly-created United Nations Office which he directs was concerned, Mr. Strong concluded that the universality of the Red Cross and its emphasis on involving youth in community action, particularly qualify that organization to get results, and to arouse public opinion for the good of all of us in this challenging field. Protection of man, a traditional role of the Red Cross, now includes protection of the human environment.

In this context, a particularly significant passage from one of the speeches delivered at Stockholm is of special interest.¹ Mr. R. Maheu,

¹ See *UNESCO Chronicle*, Paris, 1972, No. 8-9.

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Director General of UNESCO, after having underlined the work already performed by UNESCO with regard to environmental problems, went on to say:

... But however interesting, and indeed important, they may be in themselves, the full significance of these activities can be appreciated only when they are related to the underlying considerations that govern them. It may be useful now to define those considerations.

First of all, there is the wish to understand the present-day significance of environmental problems, evident in the sudden upsurge of anxiety which in so many countries has brought these problems, almost overnight, to the forefront of governmental concerns. Can this anxiety, which some regard as betokening the "great fear" of the year 2000, be explained solely by the all too real deterioration in man's physical and biological surroundings, which is to be noted practically everywhere and is, indeed, extremely serious? It would appear not. What we call the environmental crisis is essentially one feature—and a major feature—of a crisis in civilization. That is to say the alarm, or even the horror, evoked by man's treatment of nature and the enormities of the environment that he has made for himself, outweigh all other fears, including even those which we may now feel for the very survival of our species. In other words, what most terrifies men today is man himself: it is what they are discovering of his power and even more, of his will to "debase himself", and the world with him. In considering the changes and the damage brought about by man's own actions in his surroundings, we are uncovering what is most basic and most inward in modern man.

The rejection by the young of certain aspects of industrial society, the forecasts of economists who have taken sudden fright at the effects of exaggerated quantitative growth, scientific studies showing the limitations and the precariousness of our planet's resources, sociologists' surveys recording the ravages attributable to unbridled and chaotic urban development, the prophetic protest of the arts which is revolutionizing the significant background to

daily life—these are the main symptoms of this state of crisis. In this context, it would be difficult, and even artificial, to dissociate questions that are closely linked by their far-reaching interactions. For instance, environmental, population and development problems are inextricably bound up with each other. A round-table meeting of young scientists, recently invited to discuss them at Unesco House, drew attention to the essential unity of these issues and examined them all in the light of the fundamental and all-embracing question: what kind of man do we wish to be? The form of society and the face of the world tomorrow will depend on the answer to this question.

An analysis of this sort suggests certain conclusions. The first is probably that the concept of human environment cannot be treated as a particular idea marking off an isolated sphere of man's life and activity. Indeed, a large number of difficulties met with in regard to the environment are due to the very fact that the aims and the actions of individuals and communities have all too often been determined by a piecemeal approach.

It is therefore important to foster a perception of the problems which will embrace and at the same time transcend a multitude of aspects coming under different disciplines, and will call simultaneously on a whole range of techniques for changing specific situations marked by the complexity of interrelations within them. Admittedly, this interdisciplinary method of study and action is not easy to apply in practice. It presupposes a change in the educational and psychological outlook of research scientists, and indeed a new type of general education. At the same time, if the interdisciplinary approach is to avoid sinking into a slough of imprecision, it must continue to be based on sectoral studies and programmes of action which, in their turn, presuppose a sound body of knowledge in the various branches of investigation. The comprehensive approach is still, nevertheless, a prime necessity and must, ultimately, aim at being completely all-embracing.

As so aptly expressed in your motto, we have "only one earth". Above and beyond the problems of the nations, there are therefore problems of mankind as a whole which transcend State frontiers

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and call for rational international co-operation throughout the world.

We must not, however, on that account, lose sight of the diversity of mankind, made up, as it is, of many nations, a multitude of groups and individuals, cherishing different ideas about society and different values and, above all, most unequally endowed with the good things of this shared earth. On closer inspection, we find that most environmental problems are not really world-wide in character but, rather, display a multiplicity of regional, national and local features. When considered in their factual context, or in other words against their real socio-economic and socio-cultural background, apparently similar problems are found not to lend themselves to uniform solutions. To put it plainly, legitimate concern with the future of the human race on earth must not blind us to the injustice and disorder at present prevailing or cause us to forget that priorities for action necessarily depend on particular situations and ways of thinking.

How, for example, are we to define the idea of the “ quality of life ”, to which reference is so often made, if we disregard the profound cultural, economic and social differences that exist between peoples? How can we fail to see that, in many cases, a number of environmental problems have their origin in the limited choices available, particularly in the developing countries, for the planned use of land and natural resources? The unity and diversity of the world, the contrasting requirements of these two aspects of one and the same reality, the oppositions between the general necessities of the survival of the species and the particular necessities of justice and the dignity of actual societies as history and geography have fashioned them, are central to the discussions of this conference...

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

The International NGO Conference on Disarmament, held in Geneva from 25 to 29 September 1972, assembled more than three hundred delegates representing about a hundred organizations. Mr. G. Malinverni, an ICRC jurist, attended the Conference as an observer and represented both the ICRC and the League of Red Cross Societies. The organizers considered it essential to mobilize an as yet ill-informed world opinion against the arms race.

At the first stage of its proceedings, the Conference subdivided into six groups which recorded the results of their work in a brief report embodying the arguments against the arms race and a number of practical proposals designed to facilitate disarmament.

At the second stage of its proceedings, having by then subdivided into five groups, the Conference considered the means of presenting those arguments to the public in order to rouse opinion in favour of disarmament. Five methods or techniques were considered, namely: (1) a campaign within social institutions; (2) education; (3) publicity; (4) radio, television and cinema, and (5) the press.

The main conclusions reached by the Conference were the following.

The development, preparation and production of new weapons have harmful effects on the environment, particularly because they increase radioactivity and destroy natural resources. Further, the arms race is carried out at the cost of social expenditure on health and education, and to the detriment of everyone's standard of life. In no way does it constitute a stimulus for national economy. On the contrary, it represents a major obstacle to the development of the Third World countries by simultaneously using up resources, creating a climate of mistrust and favouring oppression. Again, in scientific research, which is dangerous to the people and sterile owing to the secrecy surrounding it, the arms race directly impedes industrial and social progress.

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The Conference then turned to the political problems posed by disarmament. It saw a gleam of hope in the agreements reached in past years, so long as those agreements were effectively implemented, which was not always the case. After pointing out that the experts had solved the scientific and practical problems of general disarmament by means of effective international control, the Conference stressed that the States' lack of political will was the sole obstacle to the conclusion of a treaty. It also pointed out that the partial agreements concluded in recent years had to a considerable extent reduced nuclear testing in the atmosphere and had established the dynamics of negotiations conducive to the gradual development of a climate which could lead to the conclusion of other agreements. The complexity of the world and the variety of political and economic conditions seemed to be important obstacles to disarmament. The basic demand should consist in establishing among the States the required political will for attaining a disarmed world, and public opinion should be clearly informed.

The ICRC, which has always been concerned about the problem of peace and its preservation in the world, took part in this important conference with the utmost interest.

MEDICAL AVIATION

Medical aviation is forging ahead, whether in its use of rescue helicopters in cases of distress, in the aeromedical transport of the wounded, in the special equipment installed in medical aircraft or in other technical innovations no less important to the protection of human life. This was the general impression of the 320 delegates, from fifteen countries, who attended the international symposium on the role of helicopters and aeroplanes in search and rescue, held at Mainz, Federal Republic of Germany. The ICRC was represented by Mr. P. Eberlin, Technical Adviser.

After a number of statements, followed by discussions and some civilian and military films, there were recommendations on the con-

struction of aircraft for medical evacuation and improved and standardized telecommunications. The symposium noted the ICRC's efforts regarding the signalling and identification of medical aircraft and the relevant work of the Conference of Government Experts convened by the ICRC in May and June 1972.

Helicopters of various types performed rescue and evacuation demonstrations while crewmen showed the medical equipment of air ambulances and improved signalling methods. The role of the medical helicopter is, on the whole, fairly well known while the humanitarian functions of some modern military aircraft, equipped for the transport and requisite treatment of the wounded and the sick, are not so well known. We think the particulars given below about a recent type of medical aircraft may interest readers.

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Medium-range aircraft, specially equipped for transporting the wounded and the sick and for providing treatment during flight, are contributing to the development of medical aviation. At the present time, twenty-nine medium-range aircraft, bearing the red cross emblem, are being used by the U.S. Army and Navy exclusively for aeromedical transport. They are assigned secondary flights, that is to say, the conveyance of patients from one medical institution to another.

The first of these medium-range aeromedical airlift transports, the C-9A, which was christened "Nightingale" after the famed English nurse, entered service in September 1968. Since then, these twin-jets marked with the red cross have carried about 6,000 patients a month between U.S. ports of entry from overseas and military hospitals, for specialized treatment, or to hospitals near the patients' homes. In four years' service, twelve Nightingale-type medical aircraft used by the U.S. Air Force have carried out more than 65,000 aeromedical missions, and the rate of operational readiness has been more than 99 per cent.

In Europe, four of these specially equipped airborne hospital wards will cover an area ranging from south-east Turkey to north-west Africa and to Norway, transporting patients to the Rhein Main base. Long-range military aircraft, such as the C140, which

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are equipped to receive eighty litter patients accompanied by medical personnel, carry them across the Atlantic.

The twin-jet C-9A is a specially designed model of a commercial aircraft outfitted as a fully equipped flying hospital ward. Ambulatory patients can enter the cabin through a forward door and a ventral stairway underneath the tail. For the boarding of litter patients and paraplegic cases in wheelchairs, a hydraulically operated forward door opens from the inside, and a boarding ramp automatically unfolds, sloping to the ground at a 19-degree angle.

The interior of the aircraft was designed by engineers, biotechnologists and aeromedical specialists, in close co-operation with Air Force scientific and medical personnel. It allows of various arrangements:

- (a) accommodation for 30 litters in three superimposed tiers (normal);
accommodation for 40 litters in four superimposed tiers;
- (b) combined accommodation, 18 litters and 20 seated ambulatory patients;
- (c) accommodation for 40 seated ambulatory patients.

Ambulatory patients are seated facing aft; a 40-inch space separates the rows of seats to provide room for patients with bulky leg or body casts.

To hold litters, stanchions are pivoted down from the plane's ceiling, with the lower end locked in the floor. Triangular cantilever arms are then snapped into the stanchion to hold the litter. When not in use, the stanchions swing up against the ceiling for storage. Built into each stanchion are five utility panels, including an emergency oxygen mask, a nurse call-button, a fresh air inlet, a reading light and an ashtray.

Located at the forward end of the cabin, the intensive care compartment can accommodate three or four patients. An ultra-violet light system decontaminates the air. The compartment has cardiac monitoring and intensive care equipment. The temperature, pressure and humidity can be controlled there independently of the rest of the plane. Besides the intensive compartment's equipment, the plane has a special electrical system to permit on-board use of regular hospital medical equipment such as respirators and incuba-

tors. In the medical and emergency oxygen systems, liquid oxygen is used instead of the compressed gaseous oxygen used in commercial transports.

The twin-jet has a range of more than 2000 miles and a cruising speed in excess of 500 m.p.h.

ROUND TABLE ON INFORMATION IN ARMED CONFLICTS

A round-table meeting on information in armed conflicts was held at Menton, France, on 18 and 19 November 1972. It had been organized jointly by the *Commission médico-juridique de Monaco* and the *Institut international de Droit humanitaire*, of San Remo, and was attended by jurists from a number of countries and representatives of journalists' organizations. The ICRC was represented by Mr. A. Modoux, Head of Press and Information Division.

Discussions were focused on the question of protection for journalists whilst on dangerous missions, and the action of the United Nations in that field. Reference was also made to the work of the two sessions of the Conference of Government Experts on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law which, at the request of the United Nations, had also considered that question.

CONGRESS FOR THE STUDY OF THE REFUGEE PROBLEM

The Association for the Study of the World Refugee Problem (AWR) held its twenty-second Annual Congress at Geneva from 13 to 16 October 1972. At the opening meeting, after addresses of welcome had been delivered by the representatives of the Swiss

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Federal Authorities, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Council of Europe and the President of the National Section of the AWR in Switzerland, Mr. H. G. Beckh, President of the AWR, made his opening speech. He said that the purpose of the AWR was to study the refugee problem from a scientific viewpoint and that it aimed at providing the appropriate authorities in every land with the necessary basic material for seeking a solution to these problems. For that reason, the question of State sovereignty was at the centre of the considerations revolving around the refugee problem. If it were rigidly exercised and in too absolute a manner, it could often be a cause of the appearance of refugees. Basing himself on his own personal experience as an ex-delegate of the ICRC, Mr. Beckh pointed out that the fact that humanitarian needs were taken into consideration by a State did not jeopardize its sovereign rights. In this connection, he submitted a draft resolution which was unanimously adopted by the Congress. The resolution called upon the AWR President and his colleagues to contact international jurists, with the aim of organizing together with them round-table conferences whose purpose would be to reconcile the different doctrines relating to the notion of State sovereignty.

About thirty papers were read before the various commissions on the legal problems of refugees, the history of the refugee problem and its sociological and economic aspects. Other subjects discussed included a draft Convention on the right of asylum, the position of the AWR as a non-governmental organization in questions relating to Human Rights, and the problems relating to the refugees of the third world.

The Congress adopted a second resolution, submitted by Professor Veiter, secretary general for the scientific section, containing a proposal to collect rulings made by national courts in matters concerning rights of refugees.

We may add that the AWR, which so far has concerned itself mainly with refugee problems in Europe, now intends to break new ground and to extend its activities to refugees outside Europe.

As there had always been links between the Red Cross and movements dealing with refugees, a representative of the ICRC was asked to address the opening session of the Congress. Mr. J. Pictet,

Vice-President of the ICRC, spoke of the excellent relations which had always existed in the past between the ICRC and the AWR and traced the work carried out by the International Committee after the end of the First World War for refugees and stateless persons, and the relief operations undertaken by the League of Red Cross Societies to come to the aid of victims of disasters, conflicts and other events.

“In the legal sphere”, he said, “the ICRC was not inactive. In the Second World War, it instituted a “travel document” which was a sort of passport for facilitating the repatriation or emigration of displaced persons and which had proved to be very useful. When, after four years of preparation, the plenipotentiaries of States met in 1949 to discuss the revision of the Geneva Conventions and to conclude for the protection of civilians a special new Convention which was eagerly awaited following the terrible suffering endured by so many civilians, the ICRC managed to obtain the introduction, in this Fourth Convention, of a number of fundamental provisions concerning refugees, whereby the latter were placed on the same footing as persons protected by the Law of Geneva.”

Mr. Pictet went on to say how much apprehension was being caused by the upsurge of violence, which rendered increasingly arduous any attempt to go to the assistance of victims. He concluded by declaring his belief in the rule of law, our surety for peace and justice.

CHILD WELFARE IN AFRICA

In Nairobi a seminar was held last year on “Planning and Co-ordination of Child Welfare Work”. The results were published in International Child Welfare Review¹ together with a report highlighting some of the questions raised in papers submitted by the

¹ Published by the *International Union of Child Welfare*, Geneva, 1971, No. 11-12. The report reproduced here is by Mr. G. Kaburu Ndubai.

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child welfare services of, inter alia, Ethiopia, Malawi, Mauritius, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Kenya. Our readers are aware of the importance of child welfare in Africa today and will no doubt be interested in the report which follows :

Brief historical survey.—Child welfare services, like many other social welfare services, were started by voluntary organizations or small groups of dedicated individuals. *Mauritius* seems to have taken the lead in this with the establishment of the Maternity and Child Welfare Society as long ago as 1925. At the other end of the scale, *Malawi* seems to have come in as recently as 1959, with the starting of a branch of the Save the Children Fund (U.K.) by a group of expatriate women, catering mostly for Asian and coloured destitute children.

Over the years, Government support for, and involvement in, child welfare services has been on the increase. This is clearly evidenced by regular government subventions and by legislation (e.g. 1963—The Child and Young Persons Act was passed in *Kenya*; 1967—A Child Welfare Policy was adopted by the Government of *Tanzania*; 1967—The Save the Children Fund of *Malawi* became an autonomous body, with His Excellency the President as Patron; the proposed Children and Young Persons Bill in *Uganda*), and the participation of various Government Ministries (especially the Ministries of Education, Health, Home Affairs, Local Government, Community Development and Social Affairs).

Principles and objectives.—In practically all the Country Reports the following principles and objectives are expressed, in one form or another, that:

- a) First priority be given to child welfare services.
- b) Basic service to children should be through their families; separation of any child from his family, the basic unit of society, should be a last resort.
- c) There should be encouragement and support for all efforts aimed at stabilizing family life and improving the social and economic environment of the child.
- d) Service to children should be rendered within appropriate age limits.

- e) There is urgent need for properly planned vocational training and moral instruction.
- f) There should be more emphasis on *preventive* services in order to reduce the need for *curative* services.
- g) Proper co-ordination and supervision of all child welfare services is required.

Present institutions and services for children.—These include the following:

Juvenile remand homes, approved schools, children's homes, primary schools, day care centres, adoption and foster care services, services for mentally and physically disabled children, nutritional services, pre-school feeding programmes and school feeding programmes.

Co-ordination.—Regarding co-ordination, there exists a very close working relationship between Governments and voluntary organizations in the field of social welfare, and particularly child welfare services. In some of the countries, children's departments have been established within Government ministries. In those countries where National Councils of Social Service have already been established, positive progress is being made in the right direction, thus minimizing duplication of services and at the same time ensuring maximum use of the available resources. More time and proper planning are still required, however, in order to bring about the desired co-ordination between all agencies involved in the provision of child welfare services.

Problems at present.—These are many and varied. However, the main ones, as mentioned in the Country Reports, are as follows:

- a) Lack of well-trained local personnel.
- b) Geographical distribution of available services for children.
- c) Financial constraints.
- d) Abandoned babies and homeless children, especially in towns and cities.
- e) Family breakdown.
- f) Poverty and ignorance resulting in malnutrition and neglect of children.

MISCELLANEOUS

- g) Inadequate health services for mothers and children especially in rural areas.
- h) The handicapped children.
- i) Lack of mass education for all children of school-going age.
- j) Children being left for too long in some institutions for various reasons, e.g. because families are unable to care for them, but are unwilling to agree to foster care.
- k) Lack of proper co-ordination, in some cases, in the field of child welfare services.

Research.—Hitherto, research and survey exercises have been carried out, usually on an individual basis, without proper co-ordination. There is, therefore, a great and urgent need for a well planned and co-ordinated national social research and survey, to ascertain what services are already in existence and which special sections require priority. National universities are seen as a great asset in the creation of a permanent research unit where the work of a researcher and practitioner can be related and results evaluated.

Training.—Social welfare work, as a profession, is relatively new in this part of Africa. The social welfare personnel in the field, the majority of whom are of low and middle-level academic qualifications, do attend in-service courses, refresher courses and seminars that are organized from time to time. Appropriate subjects, including child welfare, are discussed. Professional training at a higher level—university diplomas and degrees—has in the past been done abroad, but positive steps are being taken to introduce this type of training in the national universities. Need is also expressed for a “ generic training ” in social welfare, including child welfare, in order to make social workers better equipped for the kind of environment they are going to work in.

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EXTRACT FROM THE STATUTES OF
THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

(AGREED AND AMENDED ON 25 SEPTEMBER 1952)

ART. 1. — The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), founded in Geneva in 1863 and formally recognized in the Geneva Conventions and by International Conferences of the Red Cross, shall be an independent organization having its own Statutes.

It shall be a constituent part of the International Red Cross.¹

ART. 2. — As an association governed by Articles 60 and following of the Swiss Civil Code, the ICRC shall have legal personality.

ART. 3. — The headquarters of the ICRC shall be in Geneva.

Its emblem shall be a red cross on a white ground. Its motto shall be “ Inter arma caritas ”.

ART. 4. — The special role of the ICRC shall be:

- (a) to maintain the fundamental and permanent principles of the Red Cross, namely: impartiality, action independent of any racial, political, religious or economic considerations, the universality of the Red Cross and the equality of the National Red Cross Societies;
- (b) to recognize any newly established or reconstituted National Red Cross Society which fulfils the conditions for recognition in force, and to notify other National Societies of such recognition;

¹ The International Red Cross comprises the National Red Cross Societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies. The term “ National Red Cross Societies ” includes the Red Crescent Societies and the Red Lion and Sun Society.

- (c) to undertake the tasks incumbent on it under the Geneva Conventions, to work for the faithful application of these Conventions and to take cognizance of any complaints regarding alleged breaches of the humanitarian Conventions;
- (d) to take action in its capacity as a neutral institution, especially in case of war, civil war or internal strife; to endeavour to ensure at all times that the military and civilian victims of such conflicts and of their direct results receive protection and assistance, and to serve, in humanitarian matters, as an intermediary between the parties;
- (e) to contribute, in view of such conflicts, to the preparation and development of medical personnel and medical equipment, in cooperation with the Red Cross organizations, the medical services of the armed forces, and other competent authorities;
- (f) to work for the continual improvement of humanitarian international law and for the better understanding and diffusion of the Geneva Conventions and to prepare for their possible extension;
- (g) to accept the mandates entrusted to it by the International Conferences of the Red Cross.

The ICRC may also take any humanitarian initiative which comes within its role as a specifically neutral and independent institution and consider any question requiring examination by such an institution.

ART. 6 (first paragraph). — The ICRC shall co-opt its members from among Swiss citizens. The number of members may not exceed twenty-five.

THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS OF AUGUST 12, 1949¹

Some Publications

	Sw. Fr
The Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949. 2nd Ed. 1950. 245 pp.	10.—
Commentary published under the general editorship of Mr. J. Pictet, member of ICRC:	
— Vol. 1: Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field — 466 pp.	
bound	40.—
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Rights and Duties of Nurses under the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949 — 45 pp. (for orders exceeding 100 copies Sw. Fr. 1.— per copy)	1.50

*

International Red Cross Handbook. ² Conventions—Statutes and Regulations—Resolutions of the International Conference of the Red Cross and of the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies, 11th ed. 1971; 8vo, 607 pp.	40.—
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¹ These publications and the full list of ICRC publications may be obtained from the ICRC Documentation Department, 7 avenue de la Paix, CH-1211 Geneva 1.

² This joint publication can be obtained at the above address or from the League of Red Cross Societies, Case postale 2099, CH-1211 Geneva 19.

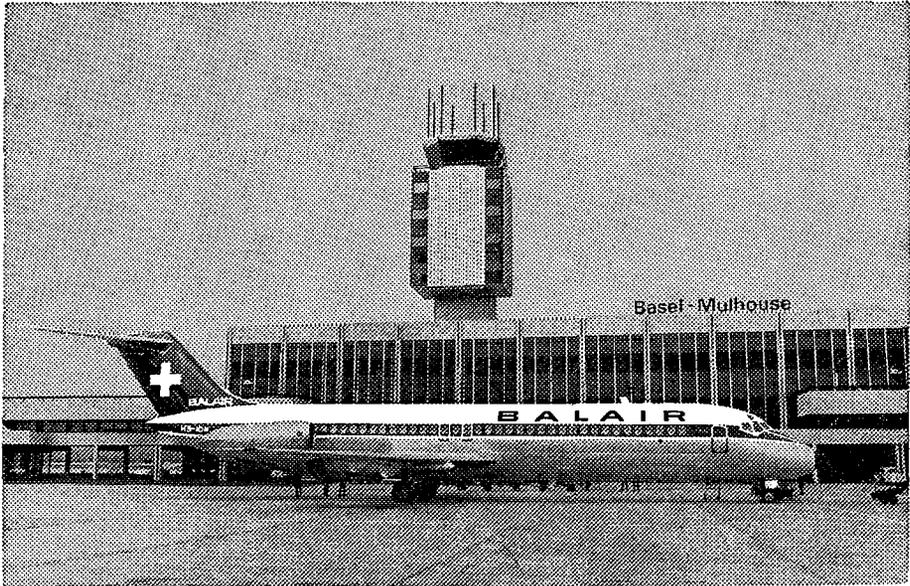


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- ALBANIA — Albanian Red Cross, 35, Rruga e Barrikadavet, *Tirana*.
- ALGERIA — Central Committee of the Algerian Red Crescent Society, 15 bis, Boulevard Mohamed V, *Algiers*.
- ARGENTINA — Argentine Red Cross, H. Yrigoyen 2068, *Buenos Aires*.
- AUSTRALIA — Australian Red Cross, 122-128 Flinders Street, *Melbourne, C. 1*.
- AUSTRIA — Austrian Red Cross, 3 Gusshausstrasse, Postfach 39, *Vienna IV*.
- BAHRAIN — Bahrain Red Crescent Society, P.O. Box 882, *Manama*.
- BELGIUM — Belgian Red Cross, 98 Chaussée de Vleurgat, *Brussels 5*.
- BOLIVIA — Bolivian Red Cross, Avenida Simón Bolívar, 1515 (Casilla 741), *La Paz*.
- BOTSWANA — Botswana Red Cross Society, Independence Avenue, P.O. Box 485, *Gaborone*.
- BRAZIL — Brazilian Red Cross, Praça Cruz Vermelha 10-12, *Rio de Janeiro*.
- BULGARIA — Bulgarian Red Cross, 1, Boul. S. S. Biruzov, *Sofia*.
- BURMA — Burma Red Cross, 42 Strand Road, Red Cross Building, *Rangoon*.
- BURUNDI — Red Cross Society of Burundi, rue du Marché 3, P.O. Box 324, *Bujumbura*.
- CAMEROON — Central Committee of the Cameroon Red Cross Society, rue Henry-Dunant, P.O.B. 631, *Yaoundé*.
- CANADA — Canadian Red Cross, 95 Wellesley Street East, *Toronto 284 (Ontario)*.
- CHILE — Chilean Red Cross, Avenida Santa María 0150, Correo 21, Casilla 246V., *Santiago de Chile*.
- CHINA — Red Cross Society of China, 22 Kanmien Hutung, *Peking, E*.
- COLOMBIA — Colombian Red Cross, Carrera 7a, 34-65, Apartado nacional 1110, *Bogotá D.E.*
- COSTA RICA — Costa Rican Red Cross, Calle 5a, Apartado 1025, *San José*.
- CUBA — Cuban Red Cross, Calle 23 201 esq. N. Vedado, *Havana*.
- CZECHOSLOVAKIA — Czechoslovak Red Cross, Thunovska 18, *Prague I*.
- DAHOMEY — Red Cross Society of Dahomey, P.O. Box 1, *Porto Novo*.
- DENMARK — Danish Red Cross, Ny Vestergade 17, DK-1471 *Copenhagen K*.
- DOMINICAN REPUBLIC — Dominican Red Cross, Calle Juan Enrique Dunant, Ensanche Miraflores, Apartado Postal 1293, *Santo Domingo*.
- ECUADOR — Ecuadorian Red Cross, Calle de la Cruz Roja y Avenida Colombia 118, *Quito*.
- EGYPT (Arab Republic of) — Egyptian Red Crescent Society, 34 rue Ramses, *Cairo*.
- EL SALVADOR — El Salvador Red Cross, 3a Avenida Norte y 3a Calle Poniente 21, *San Salvador*.
- ETHIOPIA — Ethiopian Red Cross, Red Cross Road No. 1, P.O. Box 195, *Addis Ababa*.
- FINLAND — Finnish Red Cross, Tehtaankatu 1 A, Box 14168, *Helsinki 14*.
- FRANCE — French Red Cross, 17 rue Quentin Bauchart, F-75384 *Paris, CEDEX 8*.
- GERMANY (Dem. Republic) — German Red Cross in the German Democratic Republic, Kaitzerstrasse 2, Dx 801 *Dresden 1*.
- GERMANY (Federal Republic) — German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany, Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 71, 5300, *Bonn 1*, Postfach (D.B.R.).
- GHANA — Ghana Red Cross, National Headquarters, Ministries Annex A3, P.O. Box 835, *Accra*.
- GREECE — Hellenic Red Cross, rue Lycavittou 1, *Athens 135*.
- GUATEMALA — Guatemalan Red Cross, 3^a Calle 8-40, Zona 1, *Ciudad de Guatemala*.
- GUYANA — Guyana Red Cross, P.O. Box 351, Eve Leary, *Georgetown*.
- HAITI — Haiti Red Cross, Place des Nations Unies, B.P. 1337, *Port-au-Prince*.
- HONDURAS — Honduran Red Cross, Calle Henry Dunant 516, *Tegucigalpa*.
- HUNGARY — Hungarian Red Cross, Arany Janos utca 31, *Budapest V*.
- ICELAND — Icelandic Red Cross, Öldugotu 4, Post Box 872, *Reykjavik*.
- INDIA — Indian Red Cross, 1 Red Cross Road, *New Delhi 1*.
- INDONESIA — Indonesian Red Cross, Djalan Abdulmuis 66, P.O. Box 2009, *Djakarta*.
- IRAN — Iranian Red Lion and Sun Society, Avenue Ark, *Tehran*.
- IRAQ — Iraqi Red Crescent, Al-Mansour, *Baghdad*.
- IRELAND — Irish Red Cross, 16 Merrion Square, *Dublin 2*.
- ITALY — Italian Red Cross, 12 via Toscana, *Rome*.
- IVORY COAST — Ivory Coast Red Cross Society, B.P. 1244, *Abidjan*.
- JAMAICA — Jamaica Red Cross Society, 76 Arnold Road, *Kingston 5*.
- JAPAN — Japanese Red Cross, 1-1-5 Shiba Daimon, Minato-Ku, *Tokyo 105*.
- JORDAN — Jordan National Red Crescent Society, P.O. Box 10 001, *Amman*.
- KENYA — Kenya Red Cross Society, St Johns Gate, P.O. Box 40712, *Nairobi*.
- KHMER REPUBLIC — Khmer Red Cross, 17 Vithei Croix-Rouge khmère, P.O.B. 94, *Phnom-Penh*.
- KOREA (Democratic People's Republic) — Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, *Pyongyang*.
- KOREA (Republic) — The Republic of Korea National Red Cross, 32-3Ka, Nam San-Dong, *Seoul*.
- KUWAIT — Kuwait Red Crescent Society, P.O. Box 1359, *Kuwait*.
- LAOS — Lao Red Cross, B.P. 650, *Vientiane*.
- LEBANON — Lebanese Red Cross, rue Général Spears, *Beirut*.

ADDRESSES OF NATIONAL SOCIETIES

- LESOTHO — Lesotho Red Cross Society, P.O. Box 366, *Maseru*.
- LIBERIA — Liberian National Red Cross, National Headquarters, 107 Lynch Street, P.O. Box 226, *Monrovia*.
- LIBYAN ARAB REPUBLIC — Libyan Red Crescent, Berka Omar Mukhtar Street, P.O. Box 541, *Benghazi*.
- LIECHTENSTEIN — Liechtenstein Red Cross, FL-9490 *Vaduz*.
- LUXEMBOURG — Luxembourg Red Cross, Parc de la Ville, C.P. 1806, *Luxembourg*.
- MADAGASCAR — Red Cross Society of Madagascar, rue Clémenceau, P.O. Box 1168, *Tananarive*.
- MALAWI — Malawi Red Cross, Hall Road, Box 247, *Blantyre*.
- MALAYSIA — Malaysian Red Cross Society, 519 Jalan Belfield, *Kuala Lumpur*.
- MALI — Mali Red Cross, B.P. 280, route de Koulikora, *Bamako*.
- MEXICO — Mexican Red Cross, Avenida Ejército Nacional n° 1032, *México 10, D.F.*
- MONACO — Red Cross of Monaco, 27 boul. de Suisse, *Monte Carlo*.
- MONGOLIA — Red Cross Society of the Mongolian People's Republic, Central Post Office, Post Box 537, *Ulan Bator*.
- MOROCCO — Moroccan Red Crescent, rue Benzakour, B.P. 189, *Rabat*.
- NEPAL — Nepal Red Cross Society, Tripureswar, P.B. 217, *Kathmandu*.
- NETHERLANDS — Netherlands Red Cross, 27 Prinsessegracht, *The Hague*.
- NEW ZEALAND — New Zealand Red Cross, Red Cross House, 14, Hill Street, *Wellington 1*. (P.O. Box 12-140, *Wellington North*).
- NICARAGUA — Nicaraguan Red Cross, 12 Avenida Noroeste 305, *Managua, D.N.*
- NIGER — Red Cross Society of Niger, B.P. 386, *Niamey*.
- NIGERIA — Nigerian Red Cross Society, Eko Akete Close, off St. Gregory Rd., Onikan, P.O. Box 764, *Lagos*.
- NORWAY — Norwegian Red Cross, Parkveien 33b, *Oslo 2*.
- PAKISTAN — Pakistan Red Cross, Dr Dawood Pota Road, *Karachi 4*.
- PANAMA — Panamanian Red Cross, Apartado 668, Zona 1, *Panamá*.
- PARAGUAY — Paraguayan Red Cross, calle André Barbero y Artigas 33, *Asunción*.
- PERU — Peruvian Red Cross, Jirón Chancay 881, *Lima*.
- PHILIPPINES — Philippine National Red Cross, 860 United Nations Avenue, P.O.B. 280, *Manila D-406*.
- POLAND — Polish Red Cross, Mokotowska 14, *Warsaw*.
- PORTUGAL — Portuguese Red Cross, Jardim 9 de Abril, 1 a 5, *Lisbon 3*.
- ROMANIA — Red Cross of the Socialist Republic of Romania, Strada Biserica Amzei 29, *Bucarest*.
- SAN MARINO — San Marino Red Cross, Palais gouvernemental, *San Marino*.
- SAUDI ARABIA — Saudi Arabian Red Crescent, *Riyadh*.
- SENEGAL — Senegalese Red Cross Society, Bld. Franklin-Roosevelt, P.O.B. 299, *Dakar*.
- SIERRA LEONE — Sierra Leone Red Cross Society, 6 Liverpool Street, P.O.B. 427, *Freetown*.
- SOMALI REPUBLIC — Somali Red Crescent Society, P.O. Box 937, *Mogadishu*.
- SOUTH AFRICA — South African Red Cross, Cor. Kruijs & Market Streets, P.O.B. 8726, *Johannesburg*.
- SPAIN — Spanish Red Cross, Eduardo Dato 16, *Madrid 10*.
- SRI LANKA (Ceylon) — Red Cross Society of the Republic of Sri Lanka, 106, Dharmapala Mawatha, *Colombo 7*.
- SUDAN — Sudanese Red Crescent, P.O. Box 235, *Khartoum*.
- SWEDEN — Swedish Red Cross, Artillerigatan 6, 10440, *Stockholm 14*.
- SWITZERLAND — Swiss Red Cross, Taubenstrasse 8, B.P. 2699, *3001 Berne*.
- SYRIA — Syrian Red Crescent, Bd Mahdi Ben Barake, *Damascus*.
- TANZANIA — Tanganyika Red Cross Society, Upanga Road, P.O.B. 1133, *Dar es Salaam*.
- THAILAND — Thai Red Cross Society, King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital, *Bangkok*.
- TOGO — Togolese Red Cross Society, 51, rue Bokosoga, P.O. Box 655, *Lomé*
- TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO — Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society, 105, Woodford Street, P.O. Box 357, *Port of Spain*.
- TUNISIA — Tunisian Red Crescent, 19 rue d'Angleterre, *Tunis*.
- TURKEY — Turkish Red Crescent, Yenisehir, *Ankara*.
- UGANDA — Uganda Red Cross, Nabunya Road, P.O. Box 494, *Kampala*.
- UNITED KINGDOM — British Red Cross, 9 Grosvenor Crescent, *London, S.W.1 X 7 E.J.*
- UPPER VOLTA — Upper Volta Red Cross, P.O.B. 340, *Ouagadougou*.
- URUGUAY — Uruguayan Red Cross, Avenida 8 de Octubre 2990, *Montevideo*.
- U.S.A. — American National Red Cross, 17th and D Streets, N.W., *Washington 6, D.C.*
- U.S.S.R. — Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Tcheremushki, J. Tcheremushkinskii proezd 5, *Moscow W-36*.
- VENEZUELA — Venezuelan Red Cross, Avenida Andrés Bello No. 4, Apart. 3185, *Caracas*.
- VIET NAM (Democratic Republic) — Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, 68 rue Bà-Triệu, *Hanoi*.
- VIET NAM (Republic) — Red Cross of the Republic of Viet Nam, 201 đường Hồng-Thập-Tu, No. 201, *Saigon*.
- YUGOSLAVIA — Red Cross of Yugoslavia, Simina ulica broj 19, *Belgrade*.
- ZAIRE (Republic of) — Red Cross of the Republic of Zaire, 41 av. de la Justice, B.P. 1712, *Kinshasa*.
- ZAMBIA — Zambia Red Cross, P.O. Box R.W.1, Ridgeway, *Lusaka*.